

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting  
December 3, 2001

8:00 a.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 8:12 a.m., Monday, December 3, 2001, in the Restaurant of the Duke of York Motor Hotel, Yorktown, by Chairman James S. Burgett.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Sheila S. Noll, Donald E. Wiggins, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

**JOINT MEETING WITH YORK COUNTY LEGISLATORS**

York County Legislators present: Senator Thomas K. Norment, Senator Martin E. Williams, Delegate Thomas Gear, Delegate Melanie Rapp, and Delegate Harvey Morgan.

**YORK COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 2002**

Chairman Burgett noted that copies of the County's 2002 Legislative Program had been forwarded to the legislators for their review, and he asked them to provide the Board members with their insight as to the possible success of the requests in the next session of the General Assembly. He reviewed for them the top five requests of the Board and asked what the Board could do to help make these requests a reality.

Discussion followed as to what the County had requested in the past, specifically dealing with Route 17 improvement funding.

Senator Williams indicated the Route 17 money couldn't be put in the state budget unless there was a specific project.

Mr. Shepperd stated that Route 17 covered multi-jurisdictions and effects economic growth throughout the area. The Board seems to be fighting a battle for the entire area. He stated he did not feel the legislators would want to leave the impression with the citizens that the issue was being ignored. He stated the Board sees Route 17 as a priority.

Senator Williams stated that VDOT programs the money as requested by the localities, and every locality in the state is competing for the limited funds.

Mr. McReynolds noted that the County has been working with VDOT on a list of priorities for lower Route 17. He stated that while there are no specific details, it was not unusual to have a project that is not completely scoped out. The County would like to see the funding restored for this project as it is a very high priority.

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Senator Williams stated the County legislative representatives would all work hard to see York County gets the funds.

Mr. Wiggins stated the major problem the County has with VDOT is that not enough funding is provided for York County projects. The whole problem is that there is not enough state money in transportation to satisfy anybody's needs. He stated the General Assembly's primary goal should be working toward more money for transportation.

Senator Williams discussed his plan over the next few years to work toward increased revenue sharing funds for the Peninsula.

Mr. Shepperd indicated the drainage issue is a meat and potatoes issues with York County constituents. The County has done a tremendous job or trying to fix the problems, and he stated he felt sorry for VDOT because they routinely get beat up about drainage problems. The area has been very lucky because of the recent dry weather, but another heavy rainfall will have the problems surfacing again. Mr. Shepperd stressed that there are communities in the County that have been here a long time and have very serious drainage problems.

Mr. Morgan noted the same problems exist in Gloucester County. He stated he has been told that VDOT's legal responsibility ends at the roadway, and legally it doesn't have the responsibility past that; yet it is the runoff from the highways that causes the problems on the private properties.

Senator Williams stated there have been many bills submitted, but the ramifications of the bills so far have been so great that they can't get passed.

Mrs. Noll indicated that VDOT has been very reticent about cleaning ditches because of environmental issues.

Mr. Barnett spoke of VDOT's reluctance to clean out ditches until full-scale environmental reviews have been completed, indicated he felt it was a delay tactic.

Mrs. Noll spoke concerning Item No. 5, stressing the need for the local director of emergency management to have authority to make certain decisions in times of local emergencies.

Senator Norment stated the Governor's Office was working on a plan, and he would communicate this request to the Governor's Office in hopes they will take it under consideration with the on-going planning.

Miss Rapp asked for clarification on Item No. 3 concerning the number of enterprise zones being requested.

Mr. Barnett indicated the previous legislation asked for an increase from 60 to 70 enterprise zones, but York County's request is that of the new 10 that they go to localities that do not currently have an enterprise zone. Mr. Barnett then discussed Item No. 10 and the County's request to prohibit annexation petitions from being filed by cities as landowners against counties which have obtained court-ordered immunity from annexation.

Mr. Zaremba then addressed Item No. 12 which requests the State to increase its support for Virginia's tourism industry. He stated the request was meaningful for the whole state and is the only request that is a revenue-generating bill. He noted that not one word was contained in the VML legislative program requesting that more revenue go into the tourism industry,

and neither Virginia Beach nor Williamsburg have brought the subject up. Given the importance of tourism to the State, Mr. Zaremba stated he felt there needed to be some added attention given to the tourist industry.

Senator Williams stated the tourism industry was looked on as a good investment.

Senator Norment stated that tourism in the Historic Triangle has not remained flat but has increased dramatically. As far as additional funding goes, he stated he did not know how much more would be available, but there was a dialog going on about the distribution of the funding that is available. He stated he saw a move to designate a significant portion of that funding to the localities showing the most success, but new money just isn't there.

Mr. Morgan stated a real effort had been made to pump tourism up as a result of the September 11 events. More money has been put into Jamestown/Yorktown for the upcoming celebrations. He stated this area has seen a huge increase, and he agreed with Senator Norment that new money would be hard to find for anything.

Mr. Zaremba stated the tourism industry is one of Virginia's bright spots; and if return is to be based on investment, the State should be looking at increasing the opportunities.

Senator Norment asked the Board members what it felt were the County's two top priorities.

Chairman Burgett indicated that Route 17 was its top priority.

Senator Norment noted that York County's control over that issue was pretty small because it is a state-wide policy issue. He stated he was trying to distinguish what the items are in the Board's program that are particular to York County that won't be imbedded in a greater policy issue.

Senator Williams stated he felt the drainage item was a top priority.

Mrs. Anne B. Smith, Director of Community Services, then discussed the grave need for mental health residential facilities and other treatment resources for juveniles in the State, and she reviewed with the legislators the legislative program of the Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission.

Senator Williams stated he felt there was a real commitment in both houses to get the money needed. As soon as the economy starts to recover, there should be a change for the better.

Mr. Morgan then mentioned that because of the redistricting process he no longer represented York County, but stated he had enjoyed representing the County for so many years. He indicated he would continue to support the County and help all he could in the upcoming session.

Chairman Burgett thanked the legislators for meeting with the Board this morning, and asked for their support of the Board's legislative program for 2002.

Meeting Adjourned. At 9:14 a.m. Chairman Burgett declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

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James O. McReynolds, Clerk  
York County Board of Supervisors

James S. Burgett, Chairman  
York County Board of Supervisors